



SCOTT AFB NEWS

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Privatization Coming to Scott

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375th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Scott Air Force Base is laying the future foundation for military members living on the installation by implementing a new housing privatization program. The program will eliminate older housing units and allow for the construction of new family units that will be managed by a private contractor.

Since quality of life is a top priority for Air Force leadership, housing privatization—conveying of on-base housing to a private contractor—has become the avenue to ensure quality affordable housing for military service members and their families.

“Houses that were suitable for our service members 50 years ago no longer meet our modern standards and require either major improvement or replacement to meet the Air Force’s standard,” said Col. Shelley Christian, 375th Mission Support Group commander. “Our goal is to ensure that our service members are well educated on how privatization works and are involved in this quality of life initiative from construction to completion.”

With DoD’s tasking for the Air Force to upgrade all required inadequate housing by Fiscal Year 2007, Scott AFB is well on its way to privatizing with a goal to award the contract by 2005, said Colonel Christian.

Housing Privatization is not a new concept. Changes in housing standards are a result of the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act’s Military Housing Privatization Initiative which gave all military services the authority to address their housing needs by using privately financed and constructed housing.

“This initiative allows services to ensure military housing is constructed to local market standards to reduce the time required to provide military members with quality affordable housing, and to replace the aging inventory of housing units within the Department of Defense,” said Lt Col Stephen Shea, 375th Airlift Wing Civil Engineer commander.

General John Handy, commander United States Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, approved privatization of all Military Family Housing at Scott Air Force Base in September 2003.

Housing privatization was slated to start earlier, but the procedures for determining Air Force housing requirements were changed by DoD for equality throughout the services which caused a hold on privatization programs. New requirements have been assessed and the project is underway.

“Privatization is a complete change in mindset for many housing residents on base, but I believe the benefits of better housing will far outweigh many concerns, said Lt Col Shea. “For example, Scott Air Force Base will be the first base to have single-family, two-car garages comparable to standards that you would see in the local community. In addition, housing residents will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the desired amenities they would like to see in a housing unit.”

Colonel Barbara Faulkenbury, 375th Airlift Wing Commander will hold a Commander’s Call Jan. 16 and a Town Hall Meeting Feb. 13 to discuss the specifics of housing privatization and to address questions and concerns with base personnel. A survey will be giving at the town hall meeting for residents to provide feedback.

For more information on housing privatization, access <http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/cc/ccp/news/>. In addition, a privatization web site will be online in the near future to better serve your information needs. You can also expect a series of articles in upcoming editions of the Command Post.